

NATIONAL CONGRESS *Bulletin*



SEPTEMBER, 1939

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
600 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Vol. 7 — No. 1

Dear Local President:

The opening of the parent-teacher year finds us in a world of doubt, of uncertainty, and of despair. It is a world which presents to us not only the known and accepted problems that belong to each succeeding generation of parent-teacher leaders, but which also raises for our answering, new questions of friendliness and justice, of tolerance and mercy.

As parent-teacher leaders today, it becomes our duty to do something about this new and strange world.

So, for doubt we must offer confidence in ourselves and in our young people and in our children — a confidence in the eventual goodness and rightness of human nature.

In place of uncertainty, we must develop a spirit of courage and adventure as we undertake new parent-teacher tasks in a new scheme of things.

And for despair, we must offer hope for the future of our children that is strong enough to set us actively at work in our parent-teacher associations to make of our aspiration a living reality.

For such a day as this, we have been chosen to act as leaders in this parent-teacher work.

Frances S. Pettengill

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• NATIONAL BOARD MEETING — CHICAGO

September 27 — October 1

THE Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers met in Chicago, September 27 to October 1. During its sessions, the Board considered numerous problems relating to the work of state branches and local parent-teacher associations. Preliminary plans for the 1940 National Convention to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, May 5-9, were outlined.

The Board is made up of the national officers, state presidents, chairmen of standing committees, and the president of National Parent-Teacher, Inc.

• RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY NATIONAL BOARD OF MAN- AGERS, SEPTEMBER 30, 1939

THE National Congress of Parents and Teachers condemns war as an instrument for settling disputes. Be-

lieving firmly in the ability of the Congress of the United States to keep this Nation in an honorable peace, we, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, urge the President and the Congress of the United States to exert their utmost efforts to keep us out of war.

The Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers urges its members —

1. *To live in accordance with the principles of democracy on which our country is founded.*
2. *To ask the President and the Congress of the United States to exert their utmost efforts to keep our Nation in an honorable peace.*
3. *To study the causes of war and the methods by which a permanent peace may be secured.*

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK . . .

AMERICAN Education Week, November 5 to 11, will have as its general theme, "Education for the American Way of Life."

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has cooperated for a number of years in observing American Education Week. This year it is sponsoring the observance in cooperation with the National Education Association, the U. S. Office of Education, and the American Legion.

AMERICAN Education Week program material, prepared by the National Congress for the use of its local units, includes the following:

1. *Freedom for Growth* — A pamphlet containing 1939 National Convention addresses and symposium panel reports. 25c.
2. *Schools for Democracy* — A new book presenting the story of the development of the American public schools, written especially for parent-teacher members. 25c.
3. *Purposes of Education* — A 24-page pamphlet presenting reprints from 1939 issues of the *National Parent-Teacher* magazine of the series of articles on the "Four Purposes of Education in American Democracy." 25c.

FOUNDERS DAY PAGEANTS

A PAMPHLET containing the pageants for Founders Day will be mailed by the National Congress to each local unit in ample time for use in connection with Founders Day programs.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER, INC.

The name of Child Welfare Company was changed on September 29, 1939, to National Parent-Teacher, Incorporated.



SIGNPOSTS AND GUIDES

Setting Our Course

"FREEDOM FOR GROWTH" was the central theme of the 1939 National Convention. The development of this theme emphasized the fact that the P.T.A. has a vital responsibility to so implement principles of the democratic way of living that all children may realize equal opportunity for growth in the four areas of human conduct—self-realization, human relationships, economic effectiveness, and civic responsibility. The Findings of the convention offer a statement of major needs which are of primary importance in today's living.

During the coming year the Bulletin will take up these Findings from month to month and present methods whereby local units may assume their responsibilities for translating them into action through their plans, activities, and projects. Through this means it is hoped that local units will be stimulated to make their greatest contribution toward meeting these needs.

● FINDINGS OF THE 1939 NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE Findings committee has interpreted its function as observing the trends of the convention discussion; and as offering such analysis as may facilitate the work of the parent-teacher movement in the state and the local associations.

The major concern of the convention phrased as "Freedom for Growth" (of individuals) brought out in many ways the fact that the preservation and perfection of democracy is "put to the test today as never before."

The suggestions enumerated by the committee are not offered as final or complete, but as a statement of major needs which the convention has revealed to be of primary importance in today's living.

The dominant trend through the convention deliberations was that—

- Democracy as a way of life has not yet become a reality in the home, the school, or the community. Neither adults nor youth have understood the ideals or the practical technique of democracy.
- Democracy does not just happen. It is achieved by conscious planning and definite work. It demands identifying individual interests with the common good, and democracy's social values are of such importance that society should determine to achieve them through rigorous individual and group effort to the point of sacrifice.
- Home, school, and community must consciously plan through example,

guidance, and opportunity to train youth to make decisions so that they may be ready to accept responsibility for adult life. Adults on the other hand hold the obligation of making a place for youth in a democratic society.

- The community must, through the school and other agencies, provide adequate training to youth for economic effectiveness and placement.
- Intelligent citizens must accept responsibility for studying causes underlying tensions between nations and for the sacrifice which may be necessary to reach humane and reasonable solution of world problems.
- The mass of divergent opinion on training and discipline of children indicates the inadequacy of our knowledge of human reactions, our failure to apply the body of available knowledge, and the resultant need of search for deeper principles of human conduct.

● Individual differences are vital. It is well for each community to analyze its own needs and select those specific things to do which will in that community most effectively develop the democratic way of life.

● Education must take into account the changing philosophy of our social democracy. Facing controversial issues is basic to the working out of social concepts in a democracy. The school must be supported in presenting realities of life and variations in ideals. For effective functioning of education, parents must share with the teacher an understanding of the objects and methods of the public school.

THE parent-teacher association holds a unique position in society inasmuch as its membership may include all individuals concerned with the well-being of children and youth — hence it holds a vital responsibility to so implement principles of the democratic way of living that all children may realize equal opportunities for freedom for growth through *self-realization, satisfactory human relationships, economic effectiveness, and civic responsibility.*

"SCHOOLS FOR DEMOCRACY"

TODAY in all progressive communities home and school relationships are characterized by understanding and cooperation. The home and the school work together to assist each child to become self-reliant in order that he may work out for himself his own problems. Good schools understandingly supported will prepare our children to assume the full responsibilities of adult citizenship.

Feeling the need at this time to direct parent-teacher attention to the development of our American system of education and to the part our public schools play in maintaining a democratic society, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has published a new book, "*Schools for Democracy.*" Leaders who are searching for new material to implement their programs and discussions on democracy will welcome this new body of authoritative information.

"*Schools for Democracy*" was prepared under the direction of Charl Ormand Williams, chairman, Committee on School Education, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, assisted by Dr. Frank W. Hubbard, Associate Director of the Research Division of the National Education Association. Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, president of the National Congress, is author of the chapter, "The Parent-Teacher Association and the School."

THROUGH the wide distribution and use of this timely new publication parents and teachers will reach new understandings and engage in still more purposeful activities in the interests of children and youth.



THROUGH THE YEAR WITH THE P.T.A.

September: The Work Begins

BACK to school this month march 30 million school children and more than a million teachers, as America's great business of education gets under way.

Of millions of American citizens interested in school problems, no group is more vitally concerned than the 2¼ million parent-teacher members throughout the Nation. In city, town, and village, the parent-teacher association is calling these members together for the first meeting of the school year to renew their group activities.

In many communities, parent-teacher leaders — officers, committee chairmen, and other members — have already held preliminary, exploratory meetings, to discuss community needs and to discover possible subjects for programs, projects, and activities for the year. And in the truly democratic fashion in which the parent-teacher association operates, every member will be given an opportunity to participate in group planning and activities through the year.

A large measure of responsibility for satisfactory results in parent-teacher work falls upon the leaders. To assist these leaders, the national and state Congresses have made a wide variety of helps available. Books, pamphlets, and other materials have been sent to each local president whose name and address are on file in the state office. Two copies each of the 1939 *Parent-Teacher Manual*, *Parent-Teacher Guidebook*, and *General Information* were provided for each local unit. Additional material, free to Congress units, may be obtained through

the state Congress office. Pay material — books, pamphlets, and miscellaneous material — may be purchased from the National Office. Both free and pay materials published by the National Congress are as follows:

PAY MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Pamphlets and Books

Children's Reading.....	\$.10
Healthy Children.....	.10
Changing Patterns for Group Living.....	.25
Freedom for Growth.....	.25
Our Homes — paper.....	.25
Our Homes — cloth.....	.50
Schools for Democracy (New)...	.25
Through the Years.....	.50

Parent Education —	
Third Yearbook.....	.50
Fourth Yearbook.....	.50
Parents and Teachers — Mason.	.50

Proceedings —	
1938 — paper.....	.50
1938 — cloth.....	.75
1939 — cloth.....	1.00

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

National Parent-Teacher	
One year subscription....	1.00

Miscellaneous

Objects Chart.....	.10
Printing Die of Congress Seal...	1.00

Sheet Music —	
A little Child Shall Lead.....	.25
Mothers' Hymn.....	.10
Tree of the P.T.A.....	.35
P.T.A. Song.....	.35

FREE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM STATE CONGRESS

Pamphlets and Folders

Guiding Principles	
Healthy Children	
Highschool Association	
Home Play	
How to Organize	
National Bylaws	
Parent Education Guidebook	
Parent-Teacher Methods	
Parent-Teacher Publicity	
Philosophy of Parent-Teacher Organization	

Philosophy of Parent-Teacher Movement

Program — 1938	
Program — 1939	
Publications Announcement	
Rural P.T.A.	
Rural Youth	
Summer Round-Up	

Plateprints

Committee Subjects —	
Alcohol and Narcotics	
Children's Reading	
How to Start a Recreation Program	
International Relations	
Legislation	
Library Service	
Mental Hygiene	
Mothersingers	
Motion Pictures	
Social Hygiene	
Student Aid	

Plateprints

Informational —	
American Education Week	
Membership Growth Chart	
Objects	
Parent-Teacher Creed (Mason)	
Parent-Teacher Creed (Wist)	
What Parent-Teacher Membership Means	
Why a Congress P.T.A.	

Miscellaneous

Message to Local Members	
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Through its publications service to parent-teacher leaders and members, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers lays the foundations for an enriched program of work. Informed members are more alert in their participation and more effective in developing a friendly spirit of understanding and cooperation between the home and the school. A wide and general use of the publications of the Congress will encourage parent-teacher effort and make success more sure.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

Volume 7 SEPTEMBER Number 1

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Mrs. Fred M. Raymond

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SCHOOLS for DEMOCRACY

This new book is ready for distribution. The price is 25 cents per copy. Order from

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
PARENTS AND TEACHERS

600 S. MICHIGAN BLVD. CHICAGO

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

News About Our Magazine

THE *National Parent-Teacher* is a significant part of the educational program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. It is a valuable complement to the organizational publications of the Congress because it provides subject matter related to the programs, projects, and activities of the organization. Important questions of the day that have a bearing on the work and interests of the Congress are discussed. Authoritative information concerning these vital issues is presented simply, practically, and frankly in each issue of the Magazine.

One of the most effective contributions that you can make to the education and general welfare of children and youth is to introduce their parents to the *National Parent-Teacher*. By doing so you will be helping them to see more clearly the problems to which they, as parent-teacher members, must direct their thinking if real progress is to be made in achieving that security and happiness which is essential to children's wholesome development and contentment.

There are some associations that send in during the course of a year subscriptions for one hundred percent of the membership. There are still, however, many associations which do

not have a single subscription among their membership. It is evident that they have not yet fully realized the value of the Magazine in the work of the association or in the life of the individual. To the leaders of these associations the following suggestions are offered:

Read several issues of the Magazine and evaluate the content in terms of its worth to the P.T.A.

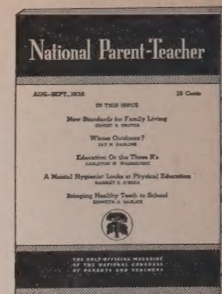
Discuss the Magazine with the officers.

Call into conference chairmen who are particularly interested in subject matter dealing with new ways to solve the perplexing educational and social problems of the times.

Suggest that all officers and chairmen subscribe or club together in order to have ready access to the Magazine.

Consider including the Magazine in the local budget with items for books and other publications. Use the subscriptions so taken to familiarize the membership with the Magazine.

Stress the fact that the *National Parent-Teacher* is not a commercial undertaking and is not being published for profit but is a national service to parent-teacher members.



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
OF THE NATIONAL
CONGRESS OF PARENTS
AND TEACHERS

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

For Long Time Keeping
— The President's Message
My Brother's Keeper
Fugitive Children
Editorial
Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary
A Poll of Parent Opinion
When Your Child Feels Inferior
Ugly Ducklings Into Swans
Our Articles of Faith
Ideas Are On the Wing
As Told by Our National Chairmen
American Youth
— Study Course Outline
Parent-Teacher Projects and Purposes

A Practical Gift

For 2 NEW Subscriptions to the "National Parent-Teacher"

AN Accounting Set for keeping a record of association finances will be given *free* to every local association that secures two *new* subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher* between October 10 and December 31, 1939.

The use of this Accounting Set insures the good records essential to the smooth and effective functioning of the P.T.A. It will provide ready answers to questions concerning the number of dues collected, bills paid, gifts made, and so on. By using this Set local treasurers will have a systematic and business-like record of the funds of the association; they will have checkable information to give to the person who audits the accounts. Most important of all, this Accounting Set will insure accurate and permanent records for the association.

The Set consists of an 88-page record book, for cash received and cash paid out, and a pad contain-

ing individual receipts. Both are bound in blue leather and embossed in gold.

The giving of this Accounting Set with two *new* subscriptions to our official Magazine is planned as a new service to our associations. We hope that many will avail themselves of this offer.

You will want to have this Accounting Set in the hands of your treasurer before the next meeting!

When you send the two *new* subscriptions:

1. Mention this announcement
2. Give your own name and address
3. Give the name of your P.T.A.

Send subscriptions to

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER
600 South Michigan Blvd.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS